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# *THE INTERIM*

JANUARY 2000

HELENA, MONTANA

VOL. XII NO. 7<sup>2</sup>

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

LFC Approves Budgeting Information Requirements Proposal... At its December 1999 meeting, the Legislative Finance Committee concurred with the Information Technology Management Study Subcommittee's action approving the Unified Computer Budget Summary and Information Technology Budget Information proposal that addresses House Bill 2 requirements. The proposal includes requirements for:

1. the executive branch to develop a statewide information technology (IT) plan;
2. state agencies to submit agency IT plans and IT budget information during the executive planning process and be included in the documentation supporting the Executive Budget; and
3. the executive branch to prepare an IT report to the Legislature that combines planning and budget information.

Subcommittee staff will monitor the implementation and status of this information gathering process and will report progress to the Legislative Finance Committee as necessary.

For a complete copy of the proposal, contact either Pam Joehler or Greg DeWitt of the Legislative Fiscal Division by phone at 444-2986 or by e-mail at <pjoehler@state.mt.us> or <gdewitt@state.mt.us>.

Consultant To Provide National Perspective... In other business, the Legislative Finance Committee also concurred with the Information Technology Management Study Subcommittee's recommendation to use the services of an information technology consulting firm under contract with the state that will provide the Subcommittee a national perspective and comparisons of Montana's IT governance

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issues to those of other states and relevant industry sectors. The consultant will be on-site at the IT Management Study Subcommittee's March 2000 meeting.

Legislators Invited to E-Government Strategy Workshop... Legislators are invited to attend an electronic government strategy workshop sponsored by the Department of Administration, Information Services Division, in Helena on February 28 and 29, 2000. All members of the IT Management Study Subcommittee are planning to attend. For further information about the workshop, contact Tony Herbert, Information Services Division Administrator, by phone at 444-2700 or by e-mail at <therbert@state.mt.us>.

## LAW, JUSTICE, AND INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Looks at Legislative-Judicial Relationship... "The [Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs] committee shall act as a liaison with the judiciary...", reads a portion of section 28, Chapter 19, Laws of 1999, introduced as Senate Bill No. 11, that reorganized the Legislature's interim committee structure and process. This new provision of law imparted on the Law, Justice, and Indian Affairs Committee (LJIAC or Committee) carries significant responsibility and presents some extraordinary opportunities that have not previously been before the legislative or judicial branches of Montana's state government. The LJIAC took a first step in fulfilling this liaison function when the Committee met on December 10 in the Supreme Court's court room, marking the first time a legislative committee has held formal proceedings in the space-age style chamber on the forth floor of the Justice building.

Committee Discusses Separation of Powers Doctrine... The Committee heard a presentation by legal staff on separation of powers, a principle provided for in Article III, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution. Specifically, this provision reads:

*The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches--legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.*

On its face, the separation of powers doctrine appears simple and straightforward-- the "checks and balances" stuff of eighth grade civics lessons. In practice, however, the lines are not so clearly drawn, a fact made evident by the number of court cases that have dealt with this basic tenet over time. The LJIAC learned that the Constitution limits the Legislature's authority; it does not grant specific rights to the legislative branch. The Legislature is permitted under the Constitution to act in any area that is not constitutionally restricted, while the Judiciary is limited to acting only on the particular matters brought before it. The root of most conflict between the legislative and judicial branches, the Committee

was told, lies in the judicial branch's determination of the constitutionality of law created by the legislative body.

While tension between the three branches of government is a natural and necessary function of this system of government, the liaison function of the LJAC, deliberately and thoughtfully included in Senate Bill No. 11, has the potential to minimize conflict through educating legislators and judges alike in the distinct responsibilities of each and through establishing formal lines of communication that may deflect conflict down the road.

Other States Look at Relationship... Montana is not the first to devise ways of improving communication between the legislative and judicial branches. Arizona, Colorado, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin are among states that have established boards and task forces to address separation of powers issues. A report prepared by the National Center for State Courts discusses a 33-member commission in Wisconsin that is charged with researching the separation of powers doctrine and "exploring ways for courts to simultaneously maintain independence and cooperate with other branches of government for the common good." The commission provided a series of recommendations to improve formal interbranch communications, some of which are already in use in Montana and some of which, made possible by the creation of the LJAC, may warrant serious consideration. The recommendations include:

- ▶ annual State of the Judiciary speech to the legislative and executive branches;
- ▶ orientation materials for new judges and legislators about the legislative and judicial branches;
- ▶ implementation of a "judicial ride-along" program, which provides legislators an opportunity to learn about the courts from judges and court officials;
- ▶ interbranch conferences;
- ▶ interbranch task teams and committees;
- ▶ informal interbranch communications; and
- ▶ institutional procedures, such as judicial checklists and judicial impact statements and reports to minimize potential problems related to executive or legislative initiatives.

A court accountability subcommittee in Wisconsin also produced a report with recommendations aimed at improving court performance, conduct, and effectiveness and improving the public's understanding of the judicial branch and its relationship to the other two branches of Wisconsin's state government.

The LJAC has at its disposal numerous other examples of state initiatives to improve interbranch relations, and the Committee has the benefit of permanency to explore the various strategies over the next several interims.

Committee Hears Appellate Court Proposal... Also during the December 10 meeting, Chief Justice Jean Turnage requested that the Committee consider

directing staff to draft a bill establishing an intermediate appellate court. Senate Bill No. 443, introduced by Senator Halligan during the 1999 Session, called for the creation of such a court, but the bill, having been re-referred from the Senate Judiciary Committee to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee, failed to reach the Senate floor. The "Back Page" article of February's THE INTERIM newsletter will explore intermediate appellate courts in more depth.

Committee Changes Next Meeting Date...The LJAC was scheduled to meet next on February 3rd and 4th, but those dates are likely to change. Those on the Committee's mailing list will receive notice of the new meeting dates, which will probably be later in February. Dominating the Committee's agenda for its February meeting will be the Senate Joint Resolution No. 14 study of sentencing statutes and data.

For more information about the LJAC, contact Leanne Kurtz, Committee staff, at 444-3064 or via e-mail at <lekurtz@state.mt.us>.

## LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Committee Meets at Library...Due to the Capitol renovation, the Legislative Audit Committee met December 15-16 in the large conference room at the Lewis and Clark Library. The following reports were presented.

### CONTRACT AUDITS:

#### Montana State Lottery -- Financial Statements (99C-03)

This financial-compliance audit report contains the results of the audit of the Montana State Lottery for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. The audit was conducted by Galusha, Higgins, and Galusha, PC under contract between the firm and the Legislative Audit Division (LAD).

The report contains an unqualified opinion on the financial statements contained in the report.

#### Montana State Lottery -- Observations (99C-02)

This report contains the results of the observation of the Montana State Lottery Drawings for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. The observations were conducted by Henry Fenton, CPA, under a contract between Henry Fenton and the LAD.

There are no audit recommendations directed to the Lottery as a result of this contract report.

#### Legislative Branch, Excluding the Consumer Counsel (99C-04)

Under contract with the LAD, Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, conducted the financial-compliance audit of the

legislative branch, excluding the Consumer Counsel, for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1999. The auditor made no recommendations and gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statements presented.

Office of the Legislative Consumer Counsel (99C-04)

Under contract with the LAD, Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, conducted the financial-compliance audit of the Legislative Consumer Counsel for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1999. The auditor made no recommendations and gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statements presented.

**FINANCIAL AUDITS:**

Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program, Commissioner of Higher Education (99-06)

The LAD performed a financial audit of the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. This report contains the audited financial statements and accompanying notes for fiscal year 1998-99. An unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements. The opinion means the reader may rely on the financial statement information presented.

The current report contains no recommendations to the program. The prior report also contained no recommendations.

Montana State Fund (99-05)

The LAD performed a financial audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. This report contains the audited financial statements and accompanying notes for fiscal year 1998-99, with comparative fiscal year 1997-98 amounts. An unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements.

The current report contains no recommendations to the Fund. The prior report also contained no recommendations.

State of Montana, General Purpose Financial Statements (Statewide Audit) (99-01)

The LAD performed a financial audit of the General Purpose Financial Statements of the state of Montana for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. This report contains the General Purpose Financial Statements of the state of Montana and accompanying notes for fiscal year 1998-99, which were prepared by the Department of Administration's Accounting and Management Support Division. An unqualified opinion was issued on these financial statements.

Public Employees' Retirement Board, Department of Administration (99-08)

This report contains the financial statements and the independent auditor's report for the Public Employees' Retirement Board for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1999.

The Public Employees' Retirement Board administers the following retirement

systems:

1. Public Employees' Retirement System
2. Municipal Police Officers' Retirement System
3. Game Wardens' and Peace Officers' Retirement System
4. Sheriffs' Retirement System
5. Judges' Retirement System
6. Highway Patrol Officers' Retirement System
7. Firefighters' Unified Retirement System
8. Volunteer Firefighters' Compensation Act

Teachers' Retirement System, Department of Administration (99-09)

This report contains the financial statements and the independent auditor's report for the Teachers' Retirement System for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1999.

Board of Investments, Department of Commerce (99-03)

The LAD performed a financial audit of the Board of Investments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. This report contains the audited financial statements and accompanying notes for fiscal year 1998-99. Unqualified opinions were issued on the financial statements of the Board of Investment's Retirement Funds Bond Pool, Trust Funds Bond Pool, Short Term Investment Pool, Montana Stock Pool, Montana International Equity Pool, Montana Real Estate Pool, all other funds, and Enterprise Fund.

Montana Board of Housing, Department of Commerce (99-07)

The LAD performed a financial audit of the Montana Board of Housing for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. This report contains the audited financial statements and accompanying notes for fiscal year 1998-99. An unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the Board.

**FINANCIAL-COMPLIANCE AUDITS:**

Montana Department of Transportation (99-16)

This report contains 12 recommendations relating to:

- ▶ \$20.5 million of improper federal revenue accruals;
- ▶ motor fuel tax revenue misstated by \$19.6 million;
- ▶ improving controls related to use of purchasing cards; and
- ▶ calculation of vehicle rental rates.

Department of Administration (99-14)

This report contains 18 recommendations to the Department. Opportunities to improve Department operations include:

- ▶ revising bid solicitation and vendor selection procedures;
- ▶ enforcing vendor contract requirements;



- ▶ obtaining assignment agreements for certificates of deposit;
- ▶ ensuring rates charged for services in Internal Service Funds are commensurate with costs; and
- ▶ properly recording activity on the accounting records.

## **INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITS:**

### Information Processing Facility and Central Applications (Central Reviews) (99DP-02)

Each year the Legislative Audit Division audits the state's central computer facility and centralized computer applications. This report contains the conclusions and recommendations for improving general controls over the state computer facility and application controls over the central computer applications. It contains 11 recommendations to the Department of Administration for improving controls over the state's central information system environment, including control weaknesses within the Statewide Accounting, Budgeting, and Human Resource System (SABHRS). These recommendations address inaccurate calculation of wage garnishments, errors in conversion data, and SABHRS security concerns.

### Montana State Lottery Security, Department of Commerce (99DP-09)

State law requires the Legislative Audit Division to analyze the security over Lottery operations every two years. Section 23-7-411, MCA specifies those areas which must be reviewed during each audit. These areas include personnel security, retailer security, ticket security, building security, and computer security. The audit report includes recommendations for improving controls over access to computer system data and validation of winning tickets.

## **PERFORMANCE AUDITS:**

### Out-of-home Placement of Juvenile Offenders, Department of Corrections (99P-02)

This report addresses out-of-home placement of juvenile offenders funded through appropriations to the Department of Corrections. Findings and recommendations cover the placement decision-making and funding process.

The LAD conducted a performance audit of the process used for out-of-home placement of juvenile offenders. The Community Corrections Division in the Department of Corrections is responsible for oversight of juvenile placement activities. Judicial district youth courts and youth placement committees are also key participants in the process. This report contains recommendations for improving the juvenile placement decision-making process.

### Department of Public Health and Human Services, Audit and Compliance Bureau (99P-03)

Performance audit work at the Audit and Compliance Bureau of the Department of Public Health and Human Services concentrated on examining the functions and

cost-effectiveness of Bureau operations. Suggestions and improvements noted in the report address the following areas:

- ▶ performing additional planning and organizing to define the Bureau's role;
- ▶ examining cost-effective alternatives to providing some Bureau functions, including eliminating those no longer necessary and contracting for other services;
- ▶ establishing process controls which formalize Bureau processes and procedures to ensure that Bureau units operate as intended; and
- ▶ performing on-going staffing and directing evaluations to ensure program resources are properly staffed and directed to achieve Bureau goals.

#### Block Management Program, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (97P-10)

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks formally started the Block Management Program in 1985. The intent of the program was to help landowners control hunters on their land.

This performance audit contains 14 recommendations for improvement of the Block Management Program. Recommendations include:

- ▶ developing goals and objectives to measure program success or outcomes;
- ▶ coordinating with other programs addressing access; and
- ▶ re-evaluating the base payment system used to compensate landowners enrolled in the Block Management Program.

#### Medicaid Third Party Liability, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Limited Scope Review (98P-03)

This report discusses procedures used by DPHHS and the Medicaid contractor to ensure Medicaid is the payer of last resort. Audit work confirmed Montana's MMIS has controls in place to ensure Medicaid is the payer of last resort. Recommendations contained in the report include:

- ▶ compliance with uniform accounting system and expenditure controls and collection of claims;
- ▶ development of formal procedures to ensure second bills are sent; and
- ▶ analysis of process used for recovery of Medicaid dollars.

Next Meeting Scheduled for March...The next Legislative Audit Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 22, 2000.

## **CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

To Meet in February...The next meeting date for the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee is February 25, 2000. The main topics for the meeting will include:

- ▶ a report from the Montana Dental Access Coalition's working groups;
- ▶ a report from the members serving on the Governor's Advisory Council on Tobacco Use Prevention; and
- ▶ more on foster care issues.

Standing reports will include the HJ 35 Mental Health Subcommittee, Project Challenge, FAIM and TANF issues, and administrative rule issues.

Dental Issues to be Discussed in January...Committee staff has been assisting in convening the followup to the Montana Dental Summit. The new Montana Dental Access Coalition will be meeting on January 28 in Helena to convene the working groups to bring forth their ideas for strategies to improve dental access in Montana, especially to the underserved populations. Representatives from the Coalition will present their ideas to the Committee and DPHHS on February 25 in order to allow any legislative proposals to be prepared for next session and any budget proposals to go through the executive planning process. There will be a link to Montana Dental Summit Information on the Committee's website by the first of the year.

Visit Committee's Website...All Committee minutes, reports, and agendas will be posted to the new interim committee website at [http://leg.state.mt.us/interim\\_committees/Children\\_and\\_Families/index.htm](http://leg.state.mt.us/interim_committees/Children_and_Families/index.htm). Please visit the website and let us know what you think!

For more information or if you wish to be placed on the interested persons list, please contact Susan Byorth Fox by phone at (406) 444-3597, by e-mail at <[sfox@state.mt.us](mailto:sfox@state.mt.us)>, or mail to Legislative Services Division, PO Box 201706, Helena MT 59620-1706.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

To Meet in January...The Subcommittee on Mental Health will meet on January 20-21 at the Federal Building in Helena. The meeting will include a METNET conference (see below). The Subcommittee will also hear presentations on effective mental health systems, funding in Montana, a pilot program to fund children's programs, and the PACT pilot program for adults.

To Hold METNET Conference...The Subcommittee will hold a METNET (interactive video) conference to receive public comment on mental health services in Montana. The METNET conference will be held on January 20 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Subcommittee would like to hear public comment on the following topics:

- ▶ present effective public mental health community services;
- ▶ gaps in community mental health services;
- ▶ barriers to developing community mental health services; and
- ▶ ways to remove the barriers.

For more information about the Subcommittee or the METNET conference, please contact Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Fiscal Division, at (406)444-5391.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

EQC Meets in December...The Environmental Quality Council met on December 2 and heard a variety of issues, including Subcommittee updates; TMDL litigation update; a panel discussion on the recent Supreme Court case construing the environmental provisions of the Montana Constitution; a BLM update on the predicted increased river recreation during the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration; and an update from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Board of Oil and Gas on coal bed methane issues.

To Meet Again in January...The Council will meet again on January 21, 2000, in Missoula at the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus. At that time, all of the Council's subcommittees will also meet. All of the meetings will be held in either Room 122 or Room 123 of the Gallagher Building.

Eminent Domain...Concepts related to eminent domain, pipeline bonding and mitigation measures, entities authorized to exercise the right of eminent domain in other states, and the process for the reversion of property were just a few of the issues discussed at the December 1st meeting of the Eminent Domain Subcommittee. The Subcommittee finalized its work plan for the interim and has begun focusing on specific issues for further study.

The next Eminent Domain Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2000, at the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus. The meeting will be held from 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., with a public hearing scheduled from 3:30-5:30 p.m. The Subcommittee will then continue its meeting until the agenda is completed.

The Subcommittee will start off the day with a panel presentation on possession of property by a plaintiff. Following the panel discussion, the Subcommittee will address issues such as:

- ▶ due process that is allowed in the eminent domain statute;
- ▶ who carries the burden of proof;
- ▶ how rights of reentry are defined;
- ▶ what the authorized public uses are in other states;
- ▶ liability associated with condemned property;
- ▶ use of the interest taken;
- ▶ types of interest taken; and
- ▶ the state's level of concurrence on federal condemnation actions.

The Subcommittee will be hearing staff presentations on what the current law states on each of these topics and using this information to determine if the current

statutes are adequate.

If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Krista Lee at 444-3957 or at <klee@state.mt.us> or Gordy Higgins at 444-9280 or at <gohiggins@state.mt.us>.

Water Policy...The Water Policy Subcommittee will meet on the morning of January 20, 2000, at the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. The Subcommittee will review staff research regarding other states' laws regulating hog farms and will also be briefed on the status of water quality monitoring efforts in Montana. The Subcommittee will then begin to assess whether or not these efforts provide adequate baseline data to demonstrate water quality trends.

For more information, contact Mary Vandenbosch by phone at 444-5367 or by e-mail at <mvandenbosch@state.mt.us>.

Land Use/Environmental Trends...The Land Use/Environmental Trends Subcommittee met in Helena on December 2, 1999. The Subcommittee heard an informative presentation about the development of the Lewis and Clark County Comprehensive Plan. The Subcommittee decided to:

- ▶ recommend that the EQC send a letter to the directors of state agencies requesting that the agencies provide a list of environmental indicator or condition data that are routinely gathered by state agencies;
- ▶ send a letter to the Montana Association of Counties and the Montana League of Cities and Towns to begin a dialogue regarding the issue of funding for growth policies (comprehensive plans); and
- ▶ initiate a dialogue with the Montana Smart Growth Coalition.

The Subcommittee will meet on the afternoon of January 21, 2000, at the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus in Missoula to follow up on these tasks. In addition, representatives from Ravalli, Missoula, and Lake Counties and the City of Missoula have been invited to discuss local efforts to develop and implement growth policies.

Contact Mary Vandenbosch by phone at 444-5367 or by e-mail at <mvandenbosch@state.mt.us> for more information.

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Study...The MEPA Subcommittee met on December 1, 1999, and heard the following topics: a panel discussion on whether MEPA is being implemented substantively and/or procedurally, a comparison of other state environmental policy acts, additional MEPA document data base analysis, a panel discussion on MEPA documents and definitions, and an update on public participation and MEPA from the Montana Consensus Council.

The next MEPA Subcommittee meeting and public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2000, at the Gallagher Business Building on the University of Montana campus. Topics for review include developing criteria to measure the costs and benefits of MEPA implementation, a report on the timeliness of MEPA

implementation, and a review of the first couple of chapters of the study report.

For more information contact Todd Everts, 444-3747, or <teverts@state.mt.us> or Larry Mitchell, 444-1352, or <lamitchell@state.mt.us>

To view the Council's or subcommittee's minutes from previous meetings, Council and subcommittee work plans, agendas, and press releases, please visit the EQC web site at <http://leg.state.mt.us/Services/lepo/index.htm>. If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Todd Everts by phone at 444-3747 or by e-mail at <teverts@state.mt.us>.

## **STATE ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS, AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

To Meet in January...The State Administration, Public Employee Retirement Systems, and Veterans' Affairs Committee will meet in Helena on Friday, January 21, 2000. The meeting will be held in the large conference room of the Lewis and Clark Library, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Library is located on the downtown walking mall at 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, about one block north of the Federal Building.

Committee to Hear About Oregon and Massachusetts...The Committee will continue its investigation of state contracting as directed by Senate Joint Resolution No. 9. The focus of this meeting will be comparing and contrasting Montana's public contracting laws, policies, and practices with other states. State contracting personnel - Dugan Perry from Oregon and Ellen Bickelman from Massachusetts - have tentatively been scheduled to brief the Committee and others on trends in their respective states. Massachusetts is a recognized leader in recent state contracting reforms, and Oregon is noted for its employment of technology in contracting processes. Under the general subject of "contracting", Mr. Perry and Ms. Bickelman will outline the law, policy, practices, trends, and reforms in each of their states. Subsequently, they will discuss how public contracts are administered/managed and enforced in their states. It is anticipated that the meeting will be a pseudo-seminar, with limited formality and an open exchange between Committee members and presenters.

For further information, please contact the Legislative Services Division at (406) 444-3064 or visit the Committee's website at [http://leg.state.mt.us/interim\\_committees/STATE\\_ADMINISTRATION/StateAdminMain.htm](http://leg.state.mt.us/interim_committees/STATE_ADMINISTRATION/StateAdminMain.htm).

## BUSINESS, LABOR, AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

To Meet in January...The Business, Labor, and Agriculture Committee will meet in Helena on January 14 in room B7 of the Federal Building. The Department of Livestock will provide a presentation on its recent efforts to identify and dispose of a herd of elk at a game farm operation that may have been infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Livestock officials will offer a description of the disease, a review of the testing procedures, and an assessment of the best practices for addressing the problem of CWD once it has been identified.

To Discuss Court Decision...If the Supreme Court issues a decision on the constitutionality of House Bill No. 260 before the meeting date, the Committee will hear from the Departments' of Agriculture and Commerce about how the decision will affect the implementation of the Governor's "Jobs and Income" economic development program that was approved during the 1999 legislative session. Terry Johnson, Principal Fiscal Analyst with Legislative Fiscal Division, will present a report on the various funds within the coal tax trust fund and how the decision affects those funds.

Consideration of Privatization Study...A portion of the meeting will be devoted to discussing possible policy options related to the government competition with private vendors study. This discussion will help the Committee narrow the focus of the HB 515 study and ensure that the necessary information is being collected and reviewed.

Workers' Comp Subcommittee Meets...The Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on December 3 in Helena to gather different perspectives on SJR 15 and discuss the direction it will travel through the remainder of the interim. The members heard from a variety of interested stakeholders, including employer and employee groups, insurance carriers, the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Montana Trial Lawyers Association. Each representative offered an assessment of the current situation facing the workers' compensation system and recommended a variety of options for the Subcommittee's consideration.

Central to the meeting was the recognition that while SJR 15 raised a number of specific questions, it is difficult to isolate any one component of the workers' compensation system for research and analysis. The Subcommittee directed staff to incorporate the questions and recommendations generated during the December meeting into a proposed study plan for Subcommittee discussion during the January meeting.

The Subcommittee will meet again on January 13 in Room B7 of the Federal Building, beginning at 1 p.m. The meeting will be devoted to discussing the proposed SJR 15 study plan. Staff will present a report on the statutory changes the Legislature has made to the workers' compensation system since 1987. The Department of Labor and Industry will provide a basic overview of the workers' compensation system, and the National Council of Compensation Insurance will

update its regional comparison.

For further information about the Business, Labor, and Agriculture Committee or the Workers' Compensation Subcommittee, please contact Gordy Higgins, Legislative Services Division, at 444-3064 or by e-mail at <gohiggins@state.mt.us>.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Legislative Council to Look at Providing Legislative Information to Public... The Legislative Council's Public Information Subcommittee has been assigned the task of undertaking the feasibility study of broadcasting legislative proceedings called for in HJR 18. In addition, the Subcommittee has received a mandate from the Council to look into a variety of other matters related to providing the public with a full and accurate perspective on the Legislature's work. The members of the Subcommittee are Senators Mack Cole and Debbie Shea and Representatives Emily Swanson and Mark Noennig.

The Subcommittee will meet in Billings at the Parmly Public Library on the morning of January 4 to review a draft work plan for completing the broadcasting study. The plan includes an activities schedule for the remainder of the interim, a thematic outline of the key questions that need to be answered, and a budget estimate for the remainder of the study period. The Subcommittee will make a presentation of this material to the Legislative Council at its January 28 meeting in Helena.

Subcommittee Looks at Other State Programs... Staff research analyst Stephen Maly attended a meeting of the State Public Affairs Television group in Los Angeles on December 14. This voluntary association consists of directors and other staff from states that televise legislative as well as other governmental proceedings. On this occasion, there were teams present from Minnesota, Florida, Alaska, Pennsylvania, Washington, Connecticut, California, Michigan, and Wisconsin. (Montana and Oregon were represented also, as prospective members of this informal club.) Each team brought a 5- to 10-minute video program that showed highlights and distinctive features of their respective state's program. All were dedicated and enthusiastic advocates of unbiased coverage of state government activities for the benefit of the citizenry.

No two state government TV programs or networks are alike, although they are all similar in some respects. For example, gavel-to-gavel coverage of floor debates and committee hearings is the norm, and this form of unedited, unfiltered coverage of key legislative activities constitutes the core of most state programs. Daily and weekly summary programs as well as news magazine-type shows with face-to-face legislator interviews are also featured in a number of states. In addition to legislative proceedings per se, a number of states have or are in the process of acquiring access to their respective supreme courts in order to broadcast oral arguments. More generally, state public affairs programming includes speeches and



press conferences by governors, legislative leaders, and prominent executive branch department heads, as well as coverage of important field hearings held in communities other than the capital city.

Much Diversity Among States...Beyond this basic commonality of purpose and format across the country, however, there are diverse methods of structuring, governing, distributing, and funding state programs.

Washington State's much admired TVW is a non-profit corporation that receives most of its cash support from the Legislature and much of its "carriage" from cable companies and local community access channels. TVW has an award-winning website ([www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org)) that provides access to probably the world's largest audio-visual archive of governmental proceedings.

In Minnesota, the Senate and House maintain separate production capacities; the work is done by in-house staff, and the end product is delivered to state residents via PBS affiliates in the Twin Cities and an uplink to cable system carriage throughout the state.

The Florida Channel is based at Florida State University, and in addition to session coverage, this system includes Public Service Commission hearings and educational documentaries on its program roster.

Alaska's set-up combines grant funding from the City of Juneau, corporate donations, and in-kind support from a PBS affiliate to provide about 14 hours of coverage per day of the Legislature.

The Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) is a statewide version of C-Span; it is owned entirely by cable operators and receives no public funding. PCN also carries the Pennsylvania State Farm Show, high school sports championships, and occasional tours of important historical places and modern manufacturing facilities.

Debate Over Structure and Regulation...One of the interesting themes connecting the discussion of each state program's current status is the anticipated debate over the future structure and regulation of an industry that delivers all sorts of bundled electronic communications signals to commercial and residential consumers. Television and telecommunications are converging; the mergers and acquisitions that are taking place on a global scale indicate a trend toward competition among firms for the delivery of "bandwidth" rather than discrete products such as cable television, internet service, or telephone. Much of the political action concerning the governance of bandwidth will take place in state legislatures rather than the Congress, because telecommunications has been largely deregulated at the federal level, but states still command jurisdiction over "telephony". The legal underpinnings of the state public affairs systems and programs mentioned above may shift in the next few years, requiring in some cases a restructuring of funding and distribution methods. As a prospective new entrant in the field, the Montana Legislature needs to be well informed about what's happening in the bandwidth business in this part of North America.

Subcommittee to Make Recommendations...For the remainder of this interim,

the Public Information Subcommittee will be analyzing other states' efforts in light of these and other pertinent matters, with a view toward recommending to the Legislature a model that is shaped to fit Montana's physical, demographic, and fiscal environment. An economically feasible system for this state will doubtless require a unique combination of structural and programmatic features borrowed from others as well as some "homegrown" components.

Subcommittee Schedules Meetings... The Subcommittee reports directly to the Legislative Council, so most of its meetings will dovetail with the Council's, which are currently scheduled for January 28, June 9, September 15, and November 17. It is likely that the Subcommittee will get together on the afternoon or evening prior to each of these meetings. In addition, staff will recommend holding two additional Subcommittee meetings, one in mid-March and another in late April, to allow sufficient opportunity for interested parties to weigh in on the technological, organizational, distribution, and funding aspects of a prospective Montana public affairs program or channel. This schedule will be more firmly fixed at or before the January 28 Council meeting, but circumstances may warrant ongoing flexibility.

Issues to be Addressed... Interested persons and organizations are invited to submit questions, ideas, and comments to the Subcommittee (via staff) for the duration of the interim. Determining the feasibility of broadcasting the Legislature (and other related activities) requires an evaluation of several interrelated factors in the context of Montana's political economy, including the following:

Structure and Organization: Would the optimal set-up involve a non-profit corporation, operating at arms-length yet under contractual guidelines, or an in-house operation, produced and managed by legislative staff? How many people (taking into consideration different mixes of human and technical resources) does it take to produce and deliver high-quality broadcasts?

Governance: Who should make key programming decisions, such as what to cover and when to air live or tape-delayed hearings and other events? On the internal front, where are the proper boundaries between House and Senate responsibilities and between legislative and executive branch "jurisdiction" regarding maintenance and upkeep of the technological infrastructure required to support the broadcasting effort?

Technologies for Production and Transmission: What kinds of camera, computer, and electronic equipment are best suited for use in Montana's State Capitol and elsewhere on the state government "campus"? What kind of transmission system(s) will deliver the video signal over the internet, the airwaves, and cable TV?

Distribution ("Carriage"): Who will "carry" the signal generated from

within the State Capitol and elsewhere on the state government campus? Will AT&T Cable Services devote a channel for distribution on its cable system in the state? Will the few community access stations in Montana do the same? Will Montana Public Television (the PBS affiliate) want to provide this sort of programming to its viewers on a dedicated full-time or part-time basis? What about satellite distribution possibilities, especially in rural areas not served by cable or microwave links?

Funding: What options are realistically feasible: general fund appropriations, tax credits, a trust or endowment program? To what extent should Montana's government channel be paid for by taxpayers or by private sector contributors, underwriters, and supporters?

Please stay tuned to this study. For further information or a copy of the Subcommittee's work plan, contact Stephen Maly at (406) 444-3064 or by e-mail at <smaly@state.mt.us>.

## TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To Meet in February...The next meeting of the Transition Advisory Committee is scheduled for February 18 in Missoula at a location to be announced. Specific agenda items have yet to be determined. However, a discussion of market power and a panel discussion on barriers to entry into competition to serve residential and small commercial customers are likely to be included.

Meanwhile, things are humming along. The Department of Revenue issued final rules concerning universal system benefits credits on December 16. Montana Power Company announced closure on its sale of electrical generation assets to PP&L Global on December 17. The Bonneville Power Administration held a meeting on transmission system reliability and cost issues on December 22. The Public Service Commission has scheduled a roundtable discussion in default supply issues on January 10 at its offices in Helena.

The annual report on the status of restructuring is nearing completion. Copies will be available in late January. For further information, contact Stephen Maly at (406) 444-3064 or send an e-mail to <smaly@state.mt.us>.

## REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Committee Meets December 10...The Revenue and Taxation Committee met Friday, December 10 in Helena. Staff presented a follow-up report on housing trust funds and revenue sources first discussed at the September meeting. The Committee did not elect to actively pursue the topic, but will hear from realtors and

people involved in low-income housing at a future meeting.

As part of the SB 11 program review process, the Department of Revenue summarized its reorganization efforts over the last few years. The Department has evolved from an agency arranged around specific tax types to "a process-centered organization, integrating business processes and information systems, and putting a greater focus on customer service."

Andrew Hodge, WEFA (a national econometric forecasting company), highlighted current economic trends in the United States. He discussed the trends in productivity; electronic commerce, including the taxation and regulation of e-commerce; consumer spending; capital gains; housing starts; corporate profits; the strength of the dollar; and international trade. While some of these topics seem remote from the concerns of Montana, their relevancy will be more evident next fall when the Committee begins developing revenue estimates for the 57th Legislature.

The Department of Revenue presented two reports assessing tax legislation enacted during the last legislative session. The first report highlighted the implications for future tax policy and the second report evaluated the conformity of the legislation with the principles of good tax policy.

Terry Johnson, Legislative Fiscal Division, discussed the financial implications if the Montana Supreme Court overturns HB 260, legislation that imposed a coal producers' license tax and provided for the distribution of coal tax revenue. The Court has yet to issue an opinion.

Thom Forseth, Chair, Montana Transportation Commission, discussed the Commission's duties and responsibilities with respect to the Montana Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation presented a proposed rule change dealing with the suspension of a contractor.

Chairman Hibbard Appoints Subcommittee...Rep. Chase Hibbard appointed a subcommittee to assess the Committee's responsibilities for program review of the Departments of Revenue and Transportation. Subcommittee members include Rep. Dan Harrington, Chair, Rep. Hibbard, Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, and Sen. Bill Glaser. The Subcommittee will meet January 5, at 11 a.m. in Room 487 of the Federal Building, Helena.

Debt Limitation Subcommittee Meets December 16...The Debt Limitation Subcommittee reviewed preliminary analyses of using market value instead of taxable value in determining debt limits for local taxing jurisdictions. The Subcommittee will consider more detailed analyses at its next meeting scheduled for February 17. The full Revenue and Taxation Committee will meet February 18 in Helena.

## DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Commission Meets With Full Membership...The Districting and Apportionment Commission held its first meeting with its full membership on December 13. The

Commission received general information from U.S. Census Bureau representatives from Montana and approved the issuance of a proclamation supporting Census 2000. The Commission held a brief discussion on an accelerated schedule then adopted the traditional schedule for the redistricting process. The Commission will meet again in the spring. In the meantime, members will attend various training sessions.

For more information or to be placed on the interested persons' list, please contact Susan Byorth Fox by phone at (406)444-3064, by e-mail at <sfox@state.mt.us>, or mail to Legislative Services Division, PO Box 201706, Helena MT 59620-1706.

## COUNTDOWN TO CENSUS 2000: APRIL 1, 2000

*The following information was borrowed from the United States Census 2000 website. Visit the Census Bureau at <http://www.census.gov> to learn more about Census 2000 and what you can do to ensure a successful census in which everyone in your community is counted.*

Participating in the census is in everyone's best interest. People who answer the census help their communities obtain state and federal funding, as well as provide valuable information for planning schools, hospitals, roads, and other community services and for the Districting and Apportionment Commission to redistrict the Legislature. Census information helps decision makers understand which areas need greater services for those such as the elderly, migrant workers, minority communities, and school children. The best way to make sure your community is represented in the census is to simply fill out the form and mail it back and encourage others to do the same.

By law the Census Bureau cannot share the individual answers it receives with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police, or the military. Anyone who breaks the law will receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works -- millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990's without any breach of trust.

Help Montana have a complete count and do your part. There is specific census information for religious organizations, minority representatives, K-12 educators, business, college communities, veterans, and seasonal workers representatives. Help your communities count all your fellow Montanans. We might even get our second Congressional representative back!

The Census Bureau is also hiring approximately 2,000 people in Montana to assist with the census. It's a temporary job, but a good wage and job experience! Call your local census office or Job Service for details.

And last but not least, remember to fill out and return your census form when it arrives in March, 2000!

## THE BACK PAGE

### THE 20TH CENTURY: RANDOM REFLECTIONS OF A PARTY-POOPER

By Jeff Martin, Research Analyst  
Legislative Services Division

*"God, How I hate the 20th Century"*  
George C. Scott in "Patton"

#### NOW OR LATER?

Economist Walter Williams informed a talk-radio audience that he will not be celebrating the new millennium until January 1, 2001. He has it exactly right when the 20th century ends and the new millennium begins. While I agree with Williams, and hope he invites me to his party (of two), it does not surprise me that almost everybody else will have rung in the new age by the time you read this; we, after all, celebrated the start of the 20th century in 1900. One prediction made in 1900 was that there would be flying cars by 2000. Fortunately, that prediction came true only in the Bruce Willis movie, "The Fifth Dimension". Driving a linear path is difficult enough without having to negotiate through three dimensional space.

By 2001 the new millennium will be old news so it is with a bit of irony that the last "Back Page" of the perceived end (of the century, I mean) fell to me. "Party-pooper" is not the most elegant term to describe a jaundiced-eye view of things, but the best, cynical appellations such as "misanthrope" (Florence King) and "curmudgeon" (Cleveland Amory) have already been appropriated. I do not indulge in predictions but here engage in a few random reflections of the last 100 years.

Whether one is an end-of-century purist does not diminish the notion that the 20th century was one heck of a hundred years. Dickens' assessment of the late 18th century seems more insightful to this century: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The 1900s began with the assassination of an American president and ends with a vague unease about whether our technological structure will come crashing down because of a technological glitch. In between there were world wars; a catastrophic economic collapse; a cold war waged for 50 years; the fall of an evil empire (for some, the other evil empire lurks in U.S. Department of the Treasury); the 19th Amendment to the Constitution; Prohibition; various minor wars, invasions, incursions, and police actions; the emphasis on materialism; the expansion of freedom and democracy; conspiracy theories; exponential growth in technology; and two Super Bowl victories by the Denver Broncos.

## ARMAGEDDON DELAYED

Paul Johnson, in Modern Times, informs us that the modern era began May 29, 1919, when photographs of a solar eclipse partially confirmed the validity of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Confirmation of the theory had a profound effect on science and on the popular mind. It shattered the mechanistic but comprehensible world of Newtonian physics. It may have had a more profound effect on the popular view of the world. People often confused the significance of the vagaries of the physical universe with moral relativism.

One of the practical applications of Einstein's theory was the development of the atomic bomb. It was a magnificent scientific and technological achievement, compressing decades of research into a few short years, but an achievement of the most terrifying consequences. The urgency to develop the bomb was the fear that Hitler would get it first. Japan and the Soviet Union were also working on it, but fortunately lacked the resources to get it done. The bomb was manufactured literally in a "city on the hill" in northern New Mexico. On July 16, 1945, the first plutonium bomb was detonated near Alamogordo, New Mexico. J. Robert Oppenheimer, project director, quoted from the Bhagavadgita, "the radiance of a thousand suns . . . I am become as death, the destroyer of worlds." Enrico Fermi (code name Henry Farmer; who could figure out that connection?), more prosaically, calculated the shock-waves of the blast in tons of TNT. Before the bomb was ready for deployment, Nazi Germany lay in ruins, defeated. Was it necessary to drop it on Japan? More than 50 years after the event, the moral dilemma is debated still.

After the Soviet Union obtained the wherewithal for its own nuclear arsenal, the realm of nuclear weapons became a cornerstone of American foreign policy. An arms race of massive proportions and the prospect of mutual assured destruction led many to wonder about our collective sanity. The risk of thermonuclear war was palpable, the likelihood remote. But we did take it seriously and we worried about it constantly. Novels and movies fretted over the prospect. The movie "Fail Safe" (adapted from the novel of the same name) portrayed the situation in which a technological malfunction sends a wing of B-52 bombers to the Soviet Union. All but one bomber is shot down. The surviving plane drops its payload on Moscow, and the American President orders New York City destroyed to prove we really didn't mean it. "Dr. Strangelove, Or How I Learned . . . to Love the Bomb", starring Peter Sellers, Peter Sellers, Peter Sellers, and George C. Scott, is a black comedy showing what may happen if the looney-tunes are in charge. The movie ends with Slim Pickens grand ride on a nuclear bomb that sets off the doomsday device that annihilates the planet.

With the decline and fall of the Soviet Union, the risk of nuclear war is much more remote. There is the potential threat from the Chinese, but the chief worry is whether some fanatic or rogue regime will employ a nuclear device in pursuit of an irrational objective. The bomb's destructive potential has cast its dark shadow over

this century.

## SPEAKING OF RELATIVITY

One hundred years is a long time, and some of us may even live that long. But William F. Buckley, in his book Windfall, The End of the Affair, put into sharp focus the ephemeral nature of existence. In an address to the 40th year reunion of the Yale class of 1950, he told his classmates that most of them were now older than Franklin Roosevelt was when he died in office in 1945. Windfall recounts, as an aside to other more revealing reflections, Buckley's retracing on a 71 foot sail boat the general course of Cristoforo Colombo's first voyage of (accidental) discovery. (I parenthetically offer a piece of advice: don't take up sailing, it causes one to seriously consider rearranging one's assets in the pursuit of happiness). In thinking about that voyage of discovery and other explorations into the unknown, one has to acknowledge the courage of those early explorers. The landing of a manned spacecraft on the moon was a marvel of technological achievement, well planned and prepared, but not so much a journey into the unknown.

## THE FIFTY FIFTIES

The 1950s has been characterized as a decade in which not much happened: populated by a docile population, men in gray flannel suits, and the government more than willing to suspend civil liberties to root out communism. Two books have been written about the Fifties that challenge that perception. The first, When the Going Was Good!, by Jeffrey Hart, celebrates the 1950s as an extraordinary period in American life. Hart writes:

*Not since the 1920's had so much been happening, both in popular and high culture. Extraordinary books, movies, Broadway shows burst like meteors. Faulkner and Hemingway both won Nobel Prizes at the beginning of the decade. The Catcher in the Rye appeared in 1951, The Old Man and the Sea in 1952. A spirit of literary ambition was in the air. . . New York was the art capital of the world. Politics seethed with controversy over all the issues connected with communism, at home and abroad. . . In philosophy and theology, important things were happening. And the nation as a whole experienced an unprecedented burst of prosperity, of home buying, car owning and, of course, television.*

In the other book, The Fifties, David Halberstam offers a more analytical and somber look at the decade. Halberstam takes a dimmer view of certain events of the decade, such as McCarthyism, but he too remarks on the optimism and progress of the decade. He traces in fascinating detail the development of franchises such as McDonald's and Holiday Inn, the growth of suburbia, and the significance of



television (TV was so much better when it was just a vast wasteland) as the catalyst of our national conscience. He also describes the social turmoil lurking beneath the surface: racial tension, sexual freedom, feminism, and challenges to the established order.

The latest issue of Sports Illustrated (the one that lists the 50 top athletes of each state) reminds us of two magnificent achievements of the 1950s. On May 6, 1954, Roger Bannister broke the elusive 4-minute mile barrier by running it in 3:59.4. We read, "'Running was only a small part of my life,' Bannister says, 'I thought the ideal was: the complete man, who had a career outside of sport. That's gone out the window.'"

The other accomplishment occurred a year earlier when Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953, and became the first ever to stand at the top of the world. Apparently Hillary preceded Norgay by a few steps, but they assured the world that they made it simultaneously. Hillary's modesty and a sense of teamwork and responsibility may now seem quaint.

## ARRRGH!

The 20th Century ends on a sad note. Charles Schultz is putting away his ink and pen and Peanuts will become a series of reruns. Virtually every mainstream publication and not so mainstream publication mourned the end of an era. For some reason, one of the strips that stands out in my mind is the one in which Linus, as a toddler, is sitting down reaching for a cookie from his sister Lucy. After grasping the cookie he becomes so top heavy that he tips over. Charlie Brown, his sister Sally, Snoopy, Lucy, and Linus have been the mainstays of the strip. Patty, Violet, Sherman, Pig Pen, and, to some extent, Schroeder have faded into the background, replaced by Peppermint Patty, Marcie, Woodstock, and Rerun. My family owned every book published by Schultz from Peanuts to Good Grief, More Peanuts to You'll Flip, Charlie Brown. Part of that collection is gathering dust in some forgotten fallout shelter, my father's contribution to the post-nuclear age.

The most admirable quality about Schultz was his constant devotion to his craft. That devotion and the cross-generational appeal of "Peanuts" reflects the enduring quality of his art and contrasts markedly with other cartoonists who take time off to "revitalize" or who simply call it quits. Is the demise of "Calvin and Hobbes" of any particular import? Hobbes, the animated stuffed tiger, embodied endearing human qualities, but Calvin, although possessed of a vivid imagination, was more often just a rotten little kid. I must confess that it took me some time to realize that C & H wasn't particularly funny or uplifting. Garry Larson's "Far Side" was outrageously funny, but will his humor stand the test of time?

Another durable institution has also come to end this year, its passing less noted.

William F. Buckley taped the last edition of "Firing Line" earlier this month. The program, aired on public television, began in 1966 and lasted 33 years. "Firing Line" demonstrated that civil discourse on divergent views can be both enlightening and entertaining. Current political and social commentary features, such as "Crossfire", "Geraldo", and the "McLaughlin Group" are dismal substitutes.

## REJOICE OR NOT

There is much to despise about the 20th Century, and there is also much to rejoice. Technology and new social arrangements seem on the verge of resolving the economic problem, but are we lurching, as Buckley says, to "the atomistic pull of high technology in a high tech age"? Whittaker Chambers lamented that America was on the wrong side of history. Fortunately he was wrong about that, but now one wonders if we are stumbling toward the beginning of the end of history.



## INTERIM CALENDAR

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED,  
ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN HELENA.

### JANUARY

January 4, Legislative Council Subcommittee on Public Information, Parmly Public Library, Billings

January 5, Revenue and Taxation Subcommittee on Program Review, Federal Building, Room 487, 11 a.m.

January 13, Business, Labor, and Agriculture Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation, Federal Building, Room B7, 1 p.m.

January 14, Business, Labor, and Agriculture Committee, Federal Building, Room B7

January 17, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, holiday

January 20, EQC Eminent Domain Subcommittee, Gallagher Business Building, University of Montana, Missoula, 11 a.m.; public hearing, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

January 20, EQC Water Policy Subcommittee, Gallagher Business Building, University of Montana, Missoula

January 20, EQC MEPA Subcommittee, Gallagher Business Building, University of Montana, Missoula

January 20, Legislative Finance Subcommittee on Mental Health, METNET Conference, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

January 20-21, Legislative Finance Subcommittee on Mental Health, Federal Building

January 21, State Administration, Public Employee Retirement Systems, and Veterans' Affairs Committee, Lewis and Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch

January 21, EQC Land Use/Environmental Trends Subcommittee, Gallagher Business Building, University of Montana, Missoula

January 21, Environmental Quality Council, Gallagher Business Building, University of Montana, Missoula

January 28, Legislative Council, Federal Building, Room B7, 9 a.m.

## **FEBRUARY**

February 17, Revenue and Taxation Subcommittee on Debt Limitation

February 18, Revenue and Taxation Committee

February 18, Transition Advisory Committee, Missoula

February 21, Presidents' Day, holiday

February 25, Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Committee

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